

City of San Jose Water Use Restrictions

City of San Jose Stages	City of San Jose Restrictions (applies only to Potable Water)	San Jose Water Company & Great Oaks Water Company Rule 14.1 Restrictions	State Water Board Restrictions
San Jose Municipal Code Chapter 15.10, In Effect At All Times	No irrigating landscapes between 10 am and 8 pm, unless using a bucket, hand-carried container, or a hose with a shut-off nozzle	No use of water for outdoor landscape during certain hours if and when specified in Rule 14.1 when the schedule is in effect	
	Sprinklers cannot run more than 15 minutes per station per day		
	No excessive water runoff is allowed	No flooding or run-off in gutters, waterways, patios, driveways, or streets	No watering outdoor landscapes in a manner that causes excess runoff
	Leaking or broken water pipes, irrigation systems, and faucets must be fixed within five working days	Broken/defective plumbing, sprinkler, watering, or irrigation systems must be repaired within five days of being notified by the utility	
	No cleaning of structures or paved surfaces with a hose without a positive shut-off nozzle		
	No cleaning of vehicles with a hose without a positive shut-off nozzle	No washing aircraft, boats, vehicles with a hose without a positive shut-off nozzle. Exceptions: commercial or fleet vehicle washing facilities where equipment avoids wasteful use	No washing a motor vehicle with a hose, unless the hose is fitted with a shut-off nozzle
	Commercial car washes must use water recycling equipment, a bucket and hand-washing, or a hose with positive shut-off nozzle		
	No serving water in food service establishments unless requested by the customer	No serving water by any restaurant except upon the request of the patron	No serving drinking water other than upon request in eating or drinking establishments
	Restaurants that use pre-rinse spray valves must use ones that are low-flow		
	Hotels/motels must provide guests the option to decline daily linen washing		Hotels and motels must provide guests with the option of choosing not to have towels and linens laundered daily and will display a notice of this option in each bathroom.
	Potable water cannot be used for building or construction purposes where another source of water is available (exceptions may be given by City)	No using water for construction purposes unless no other source of water or other method can be used	
	Water cannot be used from a hydrant without prior City approval		
	Potable water cannot be used for irrigation purposes where a recycled water service is currently plumbed to the site		

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Stage 1 Shortage of 10% or Greater	Council may, by adoption of a resolution declaring a water shortage, specify the number of days per week, not to exceed four, that irrigation will be allowed. Council may also establish a day(s) of the week irrigation schedule(s)		
Stage 2 Shortage of 25% or greater	No filling ornamental lakes or ponds with potable water	No filling or topping of decorative lakes or ponds except for those that use recycled water	
	Filling of non-recirculating decorative fountains with potable water is prohibited	No using water for decorative fountains except for those that use recycled water	No operating a fountain or decorative water feature, unless the water is part of a re-circulating system
	No potable water may be used to clean any exterior paved or hard-surfaced area, or the exterior of any building or structure	No using a hose to wash buildings, structures, sidewalks, other hard-surfaced areas in a manner that results in run-off or waste	No washing down sidewalks and driveways
	No washing of vehicles, except at a commercial car washing facility that utilizes a re-circulating water system to capture or reuse water		
Stage 3 Shortage of 30% or greater	No new outdoor landscaping or plantings shall be installed between the months of May through October in an area with an overhead irrigation system, unless the overhead irrigation system is disconnected, removed or converted to drip irrigation. Exceptions: drought-tolerant/native plants, plants/trees grown for consumption or environmental mitigation.		
	No refilling residential swimming pools or outdoor spas more than one foot; no initial filling with potable water, except when existing pools are drained to repair leaks	No filling or refilling swimming pools	
	Public use of water from hydrants is prohibited		
Stage 4 Shortage of 40% or greater	Filling of any swimming pool, fountain or spa is prohibited		
	Leaks, broken water pipes, irrigation systems, and faucets must be fixed within 48 hours		

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Restrictions not in the San Jose Municipal Code		Do not water outdoors more often than every other day. Even numbered addresses water on even numbered days, and odd numbered addresses water on odd numbered days. Exempt: Commercial nurseries, golf courses, water-dependent industries	
		No use of water for outdoor plants and turf using a hose without a positive shut-off valve	
		No use of water for watering streets with trucks, except for initial wash-down for construction, or to protect health and safety	
		No use of water for more than minimal landscaping in connection with any new construction	
			No watering outdoor landscapes during or up to 48 hours after measurable rainfall